

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 259958

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ORIGIN OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 COME-00 DODE-00 NSF-02

OES-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /030 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/MSO:WERB:LJA

APPROVED BY OES/OFA/MSO:WERB

ARA/EP FCORRY (PHONE)

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R 032126Z NOV 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIMA

UNCLAS STATE 259958

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, TBIO, TPHY, PE

SUBJECT: R/V ALPHA HELIX JOINT II RESEARCH

1. THE ALPHA HELIX, A PRIVATE VESSEL, OPERATED BY SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY AND FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION IS PLANNING TO CONDUCT OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH OFF THE COAST OF PERU. THE RESEARCH IS PART OF THE COASTAL UPWELLING ECOSYSTEMS ANALYSIS PROJECT (JOINT II) AND WILL TAKE PLACE FROM 1 MARCH 1976-10 MAY 1976.

2. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY IS TO ATTAIN A PREDICTIVE UNDERSTANDING OF THE COASTAL UPWELLING ECOSYSTEM SO THAT IMPORTANT FISHERIES RESOURCES THAT EXIST IN THIS REGION CAN BE CONSERVED AND MANAGED BY THE COASTAL STATES. THE PROGRAM INCLUDES A COMPLETE SET OF WEATHER, CURRENT, HYDROGRAPHIC, CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, AND FISHERIES OBSERVATIONS. THE OBSERVATIONS ARE PUT TOGETHER IN A SYSTEMS MODEL OF THE UPWELLING ECOSYSTEMS. DURING THIS CRUISE THE NECESSARY ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS WILL BE MONITORED AND THE MAJOR PHYSICAL AND BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES WILL

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 259958

BE EVALUATED.

3. DATA TO BE COLLECTED INCLUDES WIND, WATER, TEMP.,

SALINITY, NITRATE, NITRITE, AMMONIA, PHOSPHATE, SILICATE, OXYGEN, CURRENTS, PHYTOPLANKTON, ZOOPLANKTON, FISH; AIR-PLANE OBSERVATIONS OF WATER, TEMP AND SEAWATER COLOR; SATELLITE TEMP. DATA; BENTHIC BIOMASS, EKMAN ZONE CIRC., INTERNAL WAVES, NUTRIENT UPTAKE, KINETIC ENZYMATIC TRANSFORMATIONS, CHELATION AND TOXICITY.

4. EQUIPMENT TO BE USED INCLUDES MOORED CURRENT METER STD, UNATTENDED CYCLING VERTICAL CURRENT METERS, TOWED UNDERWAY PUMPING SYSTEM WITH TINICON AUTO-ANALYZER AND IRIS (INTERACTIVE REAL-TIME INFORMATION SYSTEM), ROUTINE HYDROGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT, SCINTILLATI COUNTER, SPEC-TROPHOTOMETER, MASSPHOTOMETER. A MAJOR ACTIVITY OF THE ALPHA HELIX WILL BE TRACKING DROGUES.

5. DR. RICHARD T. BARBER, DIRECTOR OF CUEA, WILL BE CHIEF SCIENTIST DURING THE CRUISE. THE RESEARCH IS BEING CONDUCTED IN COLLABORATION WITH THE INSTITUTO DEL MAR DEL PERU, AS DESCRIBED IN PREVIOUS CABLES, AND DR. DAVID ENFIELD IS PROVIDING LIAISON SERVICES AT IMARPE. ALL DATA WILL BE SHARED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF PERU ACCORD-ING TO THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT AND THREE BERTHS ARE AVAILABLE FOR FOREIGN PARTICIPATION.

6. ALPHA HELIX IS 294 GROSS TONS, 132 FEET LONG, WITH A DRAFT OF 11 FEET. THE SHIP'S MASTER IS WAYNE BRISTOL WITH A CREW OF 12 AND SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 12. CALL SIGN IS KLFK AND SHIP NORMALLY MAINTAINS DAILY CONTACT WITH NOAA RADIO STATION WWD LOCATED AT UNIVERSITY OF CALIF-ORNIA. SHIP ALSO MONITORS STANDARD EMERGENCY COMMUNI-CATION FREQUENCIES.

7. IN SUMMARY, THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO SEEK CLEAR-ANCE FOR THE ALPHA HELIX TO OPERATE IN PERUVIAN TERRI-TORIAL WATERS DURING THE PERIOD 1 MARCH-10 MAY 1976. EXACT AREA OF OPERATION WILL BE FORWARDED SEPARATELY VIA AIRGRAM. PORT CALLS WILL BE ARRANGED BY SHIP'S UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 259958

AGENT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL WATERS, ALPHA HELIX, OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE259958
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WERB:LJA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750381-1115
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751183/aaaacwod.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OFA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 NOV 2003 by chicheje>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: R/V ALPHA HELIX JOINT II RESEARCH
TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, TBIO, TPHY, PE, US
To: LIMA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006